



## *Fostering Writing Skills in Young Learners*

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### **Writing Skills Development:**

- Writing must be developed as a SKILL and HABIT, and by university, it may be too late. Students have other concerns with their major courses, and they may have had a negative or limited experience in learning to write in English (and Turkish). It is easier to foster good habits while students are young than to undo and redo old habits.
- It is up to teachers in schools to foster these skills early and allow strong habits to develop. YOU have an important role as teachers and can make a big difference in your students' attitudes towards writing. You can have a major impact!

### **Our Role as Teachers:**

- To provide a classroom environment that fosters CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING.
- To treat errors as part of the learning PROCESS in writing.
- To provide contextualized writing activities beyond sentence completion and transformation.

### **What Can Teachers actually DO in practice?**

- Instill the concept that "Good writers are good readers!" Foster reading skills!
- Create activities that are contextual and engaging.
- NEVER use writing as PUNISHMENT!
- Have students write in response to or connected to reading, speaking, listening—integrated skills!

### **Activities for Young Learners:**

1. "I Wonder" activity
2. Fishing for Hooks
3. Fractured Fairy Tales
4. Technology Autobiography
5. Jumble Story
6. Character Journals
7. Scavenger Hunt
8. Historical Fiction
9. Random Word Poems
10. Place Poem

### **Some Websites with Lessons:**

Read Write Think (you can find 1-4 above at this website; it's searchable)

<http://www.readwritethink.org/>

Jumble Story, Character Journals, Scavenger Hunt, Historical Fiction, Random Word Poems, Place Poem, and others:

<http://www.tengrrl.com/tens/017.shtml>

Discovery School

[http://school.discovery.com/?clik=www\\_nav\\_school](http://school.discovery.com/?clik=www_nav_school)